

Subject: Southern Railway Centennial medal,
1830-1930, by Paul Marship

Harrison, [Reginald] Fairfax
[Washington, D.C.]

1930

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CENTENNIAL MEDAL

1830—1930

by

PAUL MANSHIP

250 Medals struck at Christmas, 1930
and distributed with Mr. Fairfax Harrison's Compliments.

Kindly acknowledge receipt to
P. O. Box 1808, Washington, D. C.

THE earliest railroads now included in the Southern Railway System were the South Carolina (6 miles in South Carolina, 1830); Chesterfield (10 miles in Virginia, 1831); and Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur (2 miles in Alabama, 1832).

From these nuclei there has been developed, by private initiative, in a century of effort a connected transportation system aggregating 9,500 road miles and covering the territory between the waters of the Atlantic and the waters of the Mississippi, the

River Ohio and the Gulf of Mexico.

The opportunity which made possible this development, while varied, has been predominantly one of "carrying to market the fruits of the earth."

It is, then, as a symbol of that retrospect that the medal depicts

—*On the obverse* a modern locomotive at speed, with a figure of Mercury, personification of Commerce, taking form in a mist of steam and holding out ahead of the achievement of today a model of the "Best Friend", the first locomotive put in service on

the South Carolina railroad in 1830;
and

—*On the reverse* a horn of plenty, from which emerge the “fruits of the earth”, surrounded by the words, “Cotton”, “Tobacco”, and “Corn”; the three typical products of Southern agriculture.

The industrial growth of the South, now in progress, promises a different economic record in the century to come.

Dec. 29, 1930

Fairfax Harrison, Esq.

P. O. Box 1808

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the American Numismatic Society, please accept hearty thanks and much appreciation of your gift of a copy of the Southern Railway Centennial Medal 1830 - 1930, which arrived this day. We are very glad indeed to have this piece which will be added to our collection.

Again thanking you,

Very truly yours,

Curator.